

WE CLAIM:

1. A method of determining the susceptibility of a patient to antidepressant-induced mania comprising:
- 5 (a) obtaining a sample from the patient; and
- (b) testing the sample for the presence of the s variant of the 5HTTLPR polymorphism in the 5HTT gene, wherein the presence of the s variant indicates that the patient is more susceptible to antidepressant-induced mania.
- 10 2. A method according to claim 1 wherein the patient has Bipolar Disorder.
- 15 3. A method according to claim 1 or 2 wherein the patient is treated with an antidepressant.
4. A method according to claims 3 wherein the antidepressant a pro-serotonergic agent.
- 20 5. A method according to claim 4 wherein the pro-serotonergic agent is clomipramine, fluvoxamine, fluoxetine, paroxetine, sertraline, citalopram, imipramine, nefazodone, vanlafaxine or moclobemide.
- 25 6. A method according to any one of claims 1 to 5 wherein the sample is blood.
7. A method according to any one of claims 1 to 6 wherein step (b) comprises (i) extracting nucleic acids from the sample; (ii) amplifying the extracted nucleic acids using polymerase chain reaction (PCR);
- 30 (iii) performing electrophoresis of the PCR products; and (iv) determining the presence of the polymorphism.

8. A kit for determining the susceptibility of a patient to antidepressant-induced mania comprising (i) reagents for conducting a method according to any one of claims 1 to 7 and (ii) instructions for its use.
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9. A kit according to claim 8 wherein said reagents comprise nucleic acid primers for amplifying nucleic acids in a polymerase chain reaction.
10. A kit according to claim 8 wherein the reagents comprise nucleic acid primers for amplifying nucleic acids in a polymerase chain reaction, DNA polymerase, dATP, dTTP, dCTP, dGTP and buffers.
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11. A kit according to claim 8-10 further comprising reagents for sequencing the polymerase chain reaction product.

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